

## FINTRAY GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of AGM and meeting held on Tuesday 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 in The Village Hall.

**Present:** Ian Thompson, Belinda Miller, Maureen Ross, Rita Moir, Maggie Slessor, Julia Hussein, Alistair McEwan.

**Apologies:** Mel Roberts, Ali Johnston, Richard Taylor, Jay Turner.

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes:** 2019 AGM minutes approved by Belinda and seconded by Mo.

### AGM

Ian thanked everyone for their work during the last gardening year. The plans for 2022 are presented on the Fintray Gardening Club (FGC) webpage,

<http://www.fintray.btck.co.uk/FintrayGardeningClub>

### 2021 Summary

Many thanks to the Committee and the all volunteers for your help in this year. Each year it's terrific fun and the impact is for all to see. Already looking forward to the upcoming gardening year.

Here are a few of our achievements in 2021:

- Spring bulb planting next to Lairds Park.
- Additional perennial planting of the Seat Corner, front of school and LHS of Hatton Court.
- Wildflowers sowed at Seat Corner and LHS / RHS Hatton Court.
- Annuals planting around the village, at the church and in the school.
- Maintenance of all the new planted areas (weeding, watering, pruning), plus the orchard.
- Fantastic crop of plums and currents from the orchard - we even raised £16 from the plum sales (thanks Rita!).
- Established links with other Gardening Clubs - we gave the Alford Gardening Club a tour of Fintray and we visited the Tarland Community Garden and Douneside House.

...there's probably more, so sorry if I've missed something!

Imagine over the coming years how much our current and future planting schemes will impact the village landscape!

Ian

At the end of previous gardening year, the FGC had no obligations, or outstanding issues. The club has no physical stock but retains £116 held within the Community Association (CA) bank account. The FGC committee was dissolved.

The new Committee was elected the same as previous:

## Election of members:

	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair - Ian Thompson	Rita Moir	Maggie Slessor
Deputy Chair - Mel Roberts	Rita Moir	Belinda Miller
Schools Liaison - Ali Johnson	Ian Thompson	Maggie Slessor
Horticultural Advisors -		
Belinda Miller	Maggie Slessor	Julia Hussein
Maureen Ross	Belinda Miller	Ian Thompson
Maggie Slessor	Belinda Miller	Ian Thompson

The FGC remains an affiliate of the CA. FGC will continue to present an annual budget to the CA and the CA will continue to hold funds on FGC's behalf. A budget will be drafted in due course. The FGC opening cash balance for the new gardening year is £116.

AGM closed.

## GARDENING MATTERS MEETING

Belinda updated everyone on the current status and proposals for planting. Successes have been, the orchard trees and bushes which are all doing well (Rita thanked everyone for their maintenance), the perennials in the planters, front of school and seat corner are also doing well, plus the wildflowers at the RHS of Hatton Court have exceeded expectation. The only problem area has been with the perennials at the LHS of Hatton Court which have largely been destroyed by slugs.

### Proposals for the upcoming year.

- RHS of Hatton court will be sprayed and dug over to remove all weeds and couch grass. Wildflowers (supplied by Aberdeenshire Council) will then be sown and the area will be maintained as a natural wildflower area.
- Additional wildflowers will be sown next to the fruit bushes opposite West Lodge.
- Dead perennials and some shrubs will be removed from the LHS of Hatton Court; these will be replaced with roses, mallows and buddleias. Polemoniums will be replanted.
- The hebes at the seat corner will be cut back allowing room to expand the perennials.
- No additional planting planned at the front of the school.
- Annuals have been ordered from Aberdeenshire Council. These will be planted in the same areas as last year, namely planters, front of school, seat corner, LHS of Hatton Court, church entrance planters, Mo's bed, with the remainder reserved for the Mill.
- On 1 November at 1330 the 'Purple for Polio' crocus bulbs will be planted by the school children in the school raised beds; Ian and Mel will supervise and Ali will prepare the beds. Mrs Doyle (new Headteacher) to explain to the children the context of this event.

Remaining crocus bulbs will be planted next to the Lairds Park notice board at 1500. Any remaining bulbs will be planted in Mo's bed and supplied to the FGC helpers.

- Photograph all bulb flowers next Spring to show the extent of existing planting and to help decide where to plant next.
- The club needs an easily accessible water source adjacent to the planters at the Play Park. Ian to investigate options.
- Village clean-up will be next April (date tbc), coordinated by Belinda.
- The Tarland Garden visit was a real success, so keen for other garden visits next year. FGC also happy to host other clubs and increase links with wider gardening community. Mel to coordinate.
- Fintray Private Garden open day to be held next June. People agree to open their gardens and provide a gift to visitors. Visitors pay a fixed fee for visiting all the gardens, plus get drinks and cakes in the hall. Funds raised will go to the FGC. Mo to coordinate.

A reminder that all meetings and info will always be posted on the FGC webpage on the Community website, and on Fintray Fowk. Correspondence to the FGC should be addressed to [fintraygardeningclub@hotmail.com](mailto:fintraygardeningclub@hotmail.com)

### **AOB**

None.

**DATE OF NEXT EVENT / MEETING - FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER AT 13:30 AT THE SCHOOL THEN AT LAIRDS PARK NOTICE BOARD AT 15:00. 'Purple for Polio' crocus bulb planting day.**